

Reorganization Minutes, January 4, 2006

Sine dine Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Leonia, Bergen County, New Jersey, was held this evening in the Borough Hall Annex, commencing at 7:35pm

2004 Council Present: Mayor Laurence Cherchi, Councilwoman Dwarica
Councilwoman Heveran, Councilman LaBianco,
Councilwoman Mitrani, Councilman Puzzo Council
President Ryan,

Council Absent: None

Also Present: Fran Lehmann, Borough Clerk, Victoria Miragliotta, Borough
Administrator Senator Weinberg, Assemblyman Johnson

Mayor Laurence Cherchi called the meeting to order.

Mayor Laurence Cherchi asked everyone to stand while Council President Ryan led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilwoman noted that the position of the Borough Engineer was vacant as the former Borough Engineer had resigned.

Mayor Laurence Cherchi stated that the conditions of Open Public Meetings Act have been met by notice placed on the bulletin board at Borough Hall and notices sent to the official newspaper.

1. Presentations

Mayor Cherchi presented plaques to outgoing Councilmembers Dwarica and LaBianco

Senator Weinberg Presented a Resolution to Councilwoman Dwarica for her many years of service to the Borough of Leonia.

2. Approval of Minutes

Regular Council Minutes December5, 2005 - A motion was made by Councilperson Dwarica to approve the minutes of December 5, 2005, seconded by Councilwoman Heveran. Councilwoman Heveran noted that on line "288 should read if Acting CCO was only option?" Roll call vote: Councilperson Dwarica, Heveran, LaBianco, Ryan Puzzo voted yes. Councilwoman Mitrani abstained. Minutes approved as amended.

Closed Session for December5, 2005. A motion was made by Councilman Ryan , seconded by Councilman Puzzo to approve the minutes. Roll call vote:

Councilperson Dwarica, Heveran, LaBianco, Puzzo, Ryan voted Yes.
Councilwoman Dwarica abstained. Minutes Approved.

Special Meeting Minutes December 12, 2005 Motion was made by Councilwoman Dwarica, seconded by Councilman Puzzo to approve the minutes. Councilwoman Heveran noted that line 105 should read; "Councilwoman Heveran stated she saw the exhaust system at the League of Municipalities Convention" Roll call vote: Councilperson Dwarica, Heveran, LaBianco, Mitrani, Ryan and Puzzo voted yes.. Minutes approved as amended.

Closed Session Minutes December 12, 2005 Motion was made by Councilman Ryan, seconded by Councilman Puzzo to approve the minutes. Roll call vote: Councilperson Dwarica, Heveran, LaBianco, Mitrani, Ryan and Puzzo voted yes. Minutes approved.

A motion was made by Councilman Puzzo to adjourn the Sine dine Meeting of the 2005 Mayor and Council seconded by Councilwoman Heveran.
All in favor none opposed. Sine dine meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

REORGANIZATION MEETING

Mayor Cherchi Opened the Reorganization Meeting of the Mayor and Council at 7:50PM.

Councilman Hawkins was sworn in by Senator Weinberg.
Councilman Hawkins thanked the members of audience for their support.

Councilman Raucci was be sworn in by Borough Clerk, Fran Lehmann.
Councilman Raucci thanked the members of the audience and his family for their support.

Councilwoman Heveran noted for the record "that effective 12/31/05 we have a vacancy for Borough Engineer".

3. Citizens

Mr. Martin Monaco, 352 Highwood Avenue; Mr. Monaco congratulated the newly elected officials. Mr. Monaco spoke regarding the letter he sent to the Governing Body on December 30, 2005.
Mayor Cherchi responded to Mr. Monaco.

Mr. Ted Kessler, 481 Park Avenue; Mr. Kessler congratulated Councilmen Hawkins and Raucci. Hopes that this is the end of the childish bickering, lets work together for the good of the Community.

Assemblyman Gordon Johnson, 1 Engle Street, Englewood; those at the State level are here to make sure that Leonia gets there fair share of monies available this year. Good Luck in the future.

Mr. Robert Pacicco, 530 Grandview Terrace; Mr. Pacicco thanked Mr. LaBianco for taking over the vacant seat on the Council. Mr. Pacicco thanked Mrs. Dwarica for her many years of service. Wished the Governing Body Good Luck in the New Year.

Darrell Whitter, 128 Spring Street; Mr. Whitter brought to the attention of the Governing Body the sewer problems on Spring Street.

Ms. Christensen 131 Broad Avenue; Brought to the attention of the Governing Body sewer issues they have been experiencing. Mrs. Christensen also spoke regarding issues with sidewalks and trees. Mrs. Christensen asked about tandem trucks on Broad Avenue. Mayor Cherchi noted that trucks are not allowed on Broad Avenue, the Borough Administrator will speak to Chief Ziegler.

Mr. Alex Rodriguez 127 Broad Avenue; Brought to the attention of the Governing Body sewer issues they been experiencing. Mayor Cherchi stated he would personally look at the tree in front of 135 Broad Avenue.

Robert Pawlick, 111 Highwood Avenue; Spoke on behalf of the Fire Department. The members of the Fire Department requested that Councilwoman Heveran be appointed Fire Commissioner.

Barbara Marchant 128 Spring Street; Mrs. Marchant thanked the Mayor and Council for their support during a very difficult time.

4. **2006 COUNCIL PRESENT:** Mayor Cherchi, Councilpersons Hawkins, Heveran, Mitrani, Raucci, Ryan, Puzzo

Council Absent; None

Also Present: Borough Clerk Fran Lehmann, Borough Administrator Miragliotta.

5. **REPORT OF THE MAYOR**

Mayor Cherchi gave a report; Mayor Cherchi wished everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year. Mayor Cherchi also congratulated the new members of the Council. Mayor Cherchi stated he believes the new Councilmen will work for the benefit of Leonia. The next couple of years are going to be difficult with many cuts both on the Federal level and Statewide. Mayor Cherchi thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

138 **6. Election of Council President:**
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140 Mayor Cherchi asked for a nomination of Council President:
141 Councilwoman Heveran made a motion to nominate Councilman Puzzo as
142 Council President, seconded by Councilman Hawkins. Roll call vote;
143 Councilpersons Hawkins, Heveran, Mitrani, Raucci, Ryan, Puzzo voted yes.
144 Motion carried. Council President Puzzo thanked everyone for their support and
145 unanimous decision.
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147 **7. *APPOINTMENT OF BOROUGH PROFESSIONALS***
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149 Mayor Cherchi appointed Brian Giblin as Borough Attorney. Motion made by
150 Councilwoman Heveran to appoint Brian Giblin seconded by Councilman Ryan.
151 Roll call vote; Councilperson Hawkins, Heveran, Mitrani, Raucci, Ryan and
152 Puzzo voted yes. Resolution 06-29 approved.
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154 Mayor Cherchi appointed Birdsall Engineering as Engineer, Bud Jones as
155 Auditor, Karen Murray as Labor Counsel, David Vozza , Risk Manager, Robert
156 Drexel, Tax Appeal Counsel, Mark Fierro as Prosecutor, and Steve Rogut as
157 Bond Counsel and Robert Metzdorf as Public Defender. Council President Puzzo
158 made a motion to approve all the Resolutions for each Professional seconded by
159 Councilwoman Mitrani. Roll call vote Councilmember Hawkins, Heveran,
160 Mitrani, Raucci, Puzzo voted yes. Councilman Ryan voted yes on all
161 professionals except for Mr. Metzdorf, he abstained. Resolutions approved
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163 **8. *MAYOR AND COUNCIL BOARD, COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE***
164 ***APPOINTMENTS:***
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166 **Board of Adjustment**
167 Ron Chace (exp. 2009)
168 Jim Bach (exp. 2009)
169 Barbara Marchant Alt 1 (exp.2007)
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171 **Board of Health**
172 Dr. Andrew McBain (exp. 2008)
173 Dr. Barry Kantor (exp. 2008)
174 Ena Scrivani (exp. 2007)
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176 **Local Assistance Board**
177 Douglas Chung (exp. 2009)
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179 **Rail Transportation Citizens Advisory Committee**
180 Matt Brennan (exp. 2006)
181 Dr. Frank Livelli (exp. 2006)
182 Adrienne Albanese (exp. 2006)
183 Vanessa Marks (exp. 2006)

184 Barbara Marchant (exp. 2006)

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189 **Environmental Commission**

190 Peter Gall (exp. 2008)

191 Michael Albanese Alt. I (exp. 2006)

192 Robert Robins Alt. II (exp. 2006)

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194 **Capital Budget Committee**

195 Ira Lieblich (exp. 2009)

196 Jose Alvarez (exp. 2008)

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198 **Borough Historians**

199 Carol Lutchen (exp. 2006)

200 Lee Lehman (exp 2006)

201 Pasquale Fusco (exp. 2006)

202

203 **Streetscape/Beautification Committee**

204 Douglas Chung (exp. 2006)

205 Jim Rodgers (exp. 2006)

206 Beth Johnson-Gabay (exp. 2006)

207 Kathleen Truebig (exp. 2006)

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209 **Website Committee**

210 John Kendrick (exp. 2007)

211 John Kendor (exp. 2006)

212 Henning Schulzrinne (exp. 2007)

213 John Stendor (exp. 2008)

214 Mary Ellen Tucker (exp. 2006)

215 Carol Lutchen Alt. I (exp. 2006)

216 Deborah Bigelow Alt. II (exp. 2006)

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218 A motion was made by Councilwoman Mitrani to approve the nominations to the
219 aforementioned Committees, seconded by Councilman Ryan. Roll call vote;
220 Councilpersons Hawkins, Heveran, Mitrani Raucci Ryan and Puzzo voted yes.
221 Appointments approved.

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223 **MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

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225 Mayor Cherchi appointed the following to Personnel & Finance Committee:

226 **Personnel and Finance**

227 Mary Heveran Chair

228 Barbara Mitrani

229 Tony Puzzo

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Mayor Cherchi appointed the following to Laws &Ordinance/ Real Estate and Insurance:

Laws and Ordinances Committee/Real Estate and Insurance

Barbara Mitrani, Chair

Mary Heveran

Gil Hawkins

Mayor Cherchi appointed the following to the Ambulance Committee;

Ambulance Committee

Frank Raucci, Chairman

Gil Hawkins

Charley Ryan

Fire Committee

Mayor Cherchi appointed the following to the DPW Committee:

DPW Committee

Charley Ryan Chair

Frank Raucci

Tony Puzzo

Mayor Cherchi appointed the following Council Liaisons:

Committee, Commission and Board Liaisons

Historic Preservation	Frank Raucci
Merchants Association	Frank Raucci
Recreation	Gil Hawkins
Board of Health	Barbara Mitrani
Shade Tree	Tony Puzzo
Environmental Commission	Gil Hawkins
Leonia Way Editors	Tony Puzzo
	Frank Raucci
	Barbara Mitrani
Senior Citizens	Tony Puzzo
	Mary Heveran

A motion was made by Councilwoman Heveran to accept the nominations to Council Committees, Boards, Commissions and Committees, seconded by Councilman Hawkins, Roll call vote; Councilmembers Hawkins, Heveran, Mitrani, Raucci, Ryan and Puzzo voted yes.

The following Mayoral Appointments for 2006 were made:

276 **Library Board of Trustees**
277 Drew Dickerson (exp. 2010)
278 Mary Ellen Tucker (exp. 2010)
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280 **Planning Board**
281 Thomas Toronto Class IV (exp. 2009)
282 Philip Choi Class IV (exp. 2009)
283 Melinda Dean Aranda Class IV (exp. 2009)
284 Martha Lieblich Class II (exp. 2006)
285 Paul Kim Alternate II (exp. 2007)
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287 **Historical Preservation Commission**
288 Nancy Hawkins Class B (exp. 2009)
289 Nina Gaetjens Class C (exp. 2009)
290 Joseph Fratello Alternate II (exp. 2007)
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292 **Local Historians** (One year)
293 Carol Lutchen
294 Lee Lehman
295 Pat Fusco
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297 **Shade Tree Commission** (5year term)
298 Vanessa Marks (exp. 2010)
299 Gretchen Studier Alternate I (exp. 2006)
300 Pat Schwoerer Alternate II (exp. 2007)
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302 **Recreation Commission**
303 Earl Ziff (exp. 2007)
304 Robert Leap (exp. 2010)
305 Thomas Wilson (exp. 2010)
306 David Rhodes Alternate I (exp. 2008)
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308 **Environmental Commission**
309 Peter Gall (exp. 2008)
310 Michael Albanese Alternate I (exp. 2006)
311 Robert Robins Alternate II (exp. 2006)
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313 Mayor Cherchi appointed the following to the Police Commission:

314 **Police Committee**
315 Charley Ryan, Chair
316 Barbara Mitrani
317 Anthony Puzzo
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319 Mayor Cherchi asked for a nomination as Chair of the Police Commission.
320 Councilwoman Mitrani nominated Councilman Ryan as chairman of the Police

Committee, seconded by Council President Puzzo. Roll call vote; Councilwoman Mitrani voted yes, Council President voted, Councilman Ryan abstained. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Heveran noted that the Fire Committee had not been appointed. Mayor Cherchi stated that he hadn't decided who he was going to appoint. At this time Councilwoman Heveran handed out research she had done regarding the "Fire Commission" which according to the Municipal Code is a "Fire Committee." Councilwoman Heveran asked for a legal opinion from the Borough Attorney. Mayor Cherchi asked Councilwoman Heveran to give the Borough Attorney the opportunity to research the issue. Councilwoman Heveran asked to have the item on the next agenda.

10. Resolution on the Consent Calendar

Councilwoman Mitrani would like to pull Resolution 06-01 the Rules of Order. Borough Administrator pulled 06-29 as it was not necessary.

Councilwoman Heveran would like to pull for discussion 06-02 Meeting Dates.

Mayor Cherchi would like to discuss the Resolution appointing Councilman

Hawkins as Liaison to the Overpeck Park.

Mayor Cherchi would like to discuss appointing the Borough Administrator as Acting Zoning Official until the search is completed.

Councilman Hawkins pulled 06-26 for a separate vote.

A motion was made by Council President Puzzo seconded by Councilwoman Heveran to approve Resolutions 06-03 through 06-25, 06-27 & 28, 06-30-06-38. Roll call vote; Councilpersons Hawkins, Heveran, Mitrani, Raucci, Ryan and Puzzo voted yes. Resolutions approved.

Resolution 06-01- Councilwoman Mitrani held for discussion at the next meeting.

Resolution 06-02 Meeting dates for 2006 – Councilwoman Heveran made a motion change October 2nd to October 4th, and have, the first and second meetings of the month Work Sessions to coincide with the Rules of Order of the Borough of Leonia seconded by Councilman Puzzo. Mayor Cherchi asked if the Borough Administrator was concerned about having only one action meeting. The Borough Administrator felt that with only one meeting to pay bills would pose a problem as very often there are time constraints with payments. Roll call vote Councilpersons Hawkins, Heveran, Raucci and Puzzo voted yes. Councilpersons Mitrani and Ryan voted no. Resolution 06-02 approved.

Resolution 06-26 - Temporary Budget for Swim Pool – Councilman Hawkins asked for a separate vote on this Resolution. Councilman Puzzo made a motion to approve Resolution 06-26, seconded by Councilwoman Heveran. Roll call vote; Councilpersons Heveran, Mitrani, Raucci, Ryan and Puzzo voted yes. Councilman Hawkins abstained because his son works for the pool. Resolution 06-26 approved.

Resolution 06-29 Creating Liaisonship to Overpeck Park and appointing Councilman Hawkins as Liaison. Council President Puzzo made a motion, seconded by

Councilwoman Heveran. Roll call vote; Heveran, Mitrani, Puzzo, Raucci, and Ryan voted yes. Councilman Hawkins abstained. Resolution 06-29 approved.

Resolution 06-39 Mayor Cherchi asked for a motion to appoint the Borough Administrator as Acting Zoning Officer until the first meeting in February. Councilwoman Mitrani made a motion, seconded by Councilman Raucci. After a discussion by the Governing Body, Councilwoman Mitrani withdrew her motion, seconded by Councilman Raucci. Motion withdrawn.

Councilman Raucci made a motion to appoint Mr. Peters as acting Zoning Official until March 20, 2006 or until a suitable replacement is found, seconded by Councilman Ryan. Roll call vote; Councilpersons Hawkins, Heveran, Raucci, Ryan and Puzzo voted yes. Councilwoman Mitrani voted no. Resolution approved.

11. Citizens

Robert Pacicco 530 Grandview Terrace; Mr. Pacicco stated we had agreed that Tony Puzzo would be the Chair of the Police Commission.

Mr. Monaco 352 Highwood Avenue; Mr. Monaco stated that it is not a sidewalk issue but an issue regarding accountability.

Mr. Ted Kessler, 481 Park Avenue; Mr. Kessler has a wish list would like the public to support the Mayor and Council. Mr. Kessler would also like the Council to consider moving the microphone so that the public is not looking at the speakers' backs; would like to see the interior of the Annex cleaned up; would like to have a meeting with Mr. Raucci and Mr. Hawkins to discuss the building of a civic center and affordable housing. Asked if the meetings could be changed from Monday to any another night.

12. Old Business

The Borough Administrator reminded the Governing Body that the appointment of Construction Code Official needed action as the temporary appointment was expiring on January 5, 2006.

Resolution 06-40 Councilman Puzzo made a motion to appoint Mr. Peters as Construction Code Official/Building Sub-Code Official for a four year term, seconded by Councilwoman Heveran. Roll call vote; Hawkins, Heveran, Mitrani, Puzzo Raucci and Ryan voted yes. Resolution approved.

Mayor Cherchi explained why he put the letter from Charlotte Vander Valk on the agenda. After discussion by the Governing Body this will be discussed at the next work session.

All other business on the agenda held until the January 9, 2006 meeting.

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415 Councilman Puzzo made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman
416 Heveran. Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

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419 Respectfully submitted,

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422 Frances Lehmann, RMC

423 Borough Clerk

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